

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2937

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PFOR PROP US LA FR
SUBJ: EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES ATTEND FIRST WEEKEND SEMINARS

REF: VIENTIANE 2806

1. FORTY U.S. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES ATTENDED THE FIRST DAY OF THE FIRST WEEKEND SEMINAR FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS' EMPLOYEES, DECEMBER 17-19, REFTEL. A TOTAL OF 106 EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS MISSIONS, INCLUDING EMPLOYEES OF COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST MISSIONS AND UN OFFICES IN VIENTIANE ATTENDED. TWO THAI NATIONAL U.S. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES DEPARTED TO THAILAND FOLLOWING THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEMINAR, COMPLAINING TO EMBOFFS THAT THEY WERE INTIMIDATED AT THE FIRST DAY'S SEMINAR BY TWO LAO WHO FOLLOWED THEM ABOUT AND SAT NEXT TO THEM THROUGHOUT THE DAY. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR REPORT ON THE DEPARTURE OF ADDITIONAL U.S. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES.)

2. DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEMINARS, DECEMBER 17,
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THE PARTICIPANTS WERE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FORMS WHICH REQUIRED DETAILS ABOUT THEIR LIVES SINCE THE AGE OF EIGHT YEARS.

3. THE SECOND DAY CONSISTED OF WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE STANDARD SEMINAR CURRICULUM AS OFFERED PREVIOUSLY TO GROUPS OF EMPLOYEES OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES

AND TO STUDENTS AT DONG DOK; A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNIST VERSION OF LAO HISTORY EMPHASIZING "THE PAST THIRTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FRENCH AND U.S. IMPERIALISTS".

4. U.S. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES SAID THAT INSTRUCTORS TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT OPPOSED THE DOCTRINES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BUT THAT IT REGARDED THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, AMERICAN YOUTH AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS FRIENDS OF THE LAO PEOPLE. SOME EMPLOYEES TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE SEMINARS OFFERED MORE STIMULATING MATERIAL THAN IS USUALLY OFFERED IN VILLAGE SEMINARS AND THAT THE MAIN LECTURER, A MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OFFICIAL, WAS AN EFFECTIVE SPEAKER.

5. THE THIRD DAY OF THE SEMINARS CONSISTED OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THE PREVIOUS DAY'S SEMINAR. PARTICIPANTS WERE DIVIDED INTO TEN GROUPS GENERALLY WITH FOUR U.S. EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN EACH GROUP. UNIFORMED PATHET LAO SOLDIERS SERVED AS DISCUSSION LEADERS IN EACH GROUP.

6. PARTICIPANTS WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO ATTEND THREE MORE THREE-DAY WEEKEND SESSIONS TO COMPLETE THE SEMINAR SERIES.

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